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Labour Force Survey concepts and data item guide

Guide to labour statistics

Definitions for the concepts and data items published in Labour Force, Australia and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed.

Released 18/03/2025

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Overview

This guide provides information on:

- Labour Force Survey concepts and data items A-Z, including descriptions and definitions and where each data item can be sourced within Labour Force Survey standard products
- Detailed output information, including the Labour Force Survey standard outputs and data items contained within each spreadsheet

More detailed information is available in [Labour Statistics: Concepts Sources and Methods \(https://author-productio.n.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](https://author-productio.n.absweb-prd.aws.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release), describing the history of changes to the Labour Force Survey and the alignment of concepts and data items to conceptual frameworks and international definitions.

Modernising the Labour Force Survey

This page is currently under review as the ABS modernises the Labour Force Survey. For details of outputs during this period see [Upcoming changes to Labour Force Survey outputs \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/upcoming-changes-labour-force-survey-outputs\)](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/information-papers/upcoming-changes-labour-force-survey-outputs).

For further details on these plans, see [Modernising the Labour Force Survey \(/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey\)](/about/key-priorities/data-acquisition-modernisation-program/modernising-labour-force-survey), and [How the ABS quality assures Labour Force data during times of change \(/articles/how-abs-quality-assures-labour-force-data-during-times-change\)](/articles/how-abs-quality-assures-labour-force-data-during-times-change).

Concepts and data items A-Z

Concepts and data items A



Actively looked for work

Specific steps taken by job seekers to find work. Actively looked for work includes: written, telephoned or applied to an employer; had an interview with an employer for work; answered an advertisement for a job; checked or registered with an employment agency; taken steps to purchase or start your own business; advertised or tendered for work; and contacted friends or relatives to find work. The reference period for these steps is the four week period prior to interview.

The data item 'active steps taken to find work' is not directly referenced in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) main publications. It is collected in the LFS to help determine if a person is unemployed. To be classified as unemployed a person must be without work, actively looking for work, and available to work. More information can be found in [Labour Statistics: Concepts Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release).

Actual hours worked

See 'Hours actually worked'.

Age

A person's age at their last birthday at the time they responded to the survey. The civilian population aged 15 years and over is in scope of the LFS, however some data items are only presented for persons aged 15-24 years. Certain characteristics by five or ten year age groups are available in some prepared tables.

Data Item	Tables
15 years and over presented in 5 and 10 year age groups up to 65 years and over group	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1 Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 01, 20a, 23b, 29b Datacubes LM1, LM5, LQ1, LQ2, EQ12, EQ13, EM1a, EM2a, EM3a, EM4a, EM5a, FM2
15 years and over presented in 5 and 10 year age groups up to 85 years and over group	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube LM9
15 years and over presented in 10 year age groups up to 65 years and over group	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14d Datacubes UM3, RM1, NM1, EQ07a
15 years and over presented in 10 year age groups up to 55 years and over group	Labour Force, Australia Tables 22, 24
15-29 year olds presented in 5 and 10 year age groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 25b
15-24 year olds presented in 5 year age groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 03 Datacube LM3, LM3a
15-24 year olds	Labour Force, Australia Tables 13, 15, 16
15-19 year olds	Labour Force, Australia Table 17
15-64 year olds	Labour Force, Australia Table 18
20-64 year olds	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 24b

Aggregate duration of job search

See 'Number of weeks searching for a job'.

Aggregate hours worked

See 'Monthly hours worked in all jobs'.

Aggregate monthly hours worked

See 'Monthly hours worked in all jobs'.

Aggregate weeks unemployed

See 'Number of weeks searching for a job'.

All jobs

Employed persons may have more than one job. All jobs data items are about all the work that an employed person undertook during the reference week, not only the work that they undertook in their main job. A person's main job is the job in which they usually work the most number of hours.

Attending full-time education

Persons aged 15-24 years enrolled at secondary or high school or enrolled as a full-time student at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

See 'Educational attendance (full-time)'.

Attending full-time tertiary educational institution

Persons aged 15-24 years enrolled full-time at a TAFE college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week, except those persons aged 15-19 years who were still attending school.

See 'Educational attendance (full-time)'.

Attending school

Persons aged 15-19 years enrolled at secondary or high school in the reference week.

See 'Educational attendance (full-time)'.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)

See 'Occupation'.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)

See 'Industry'.

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

See 'Geography'.

Available to work

Includes persons who were available to work in the reference week, or waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week (and could have started work in the reference week if the job had been available then).

The data item 'available to work' is not directly referenced in LFS main publications. It is collected in the LFS to help determine if a person is unemployed. To be classified as unemployed a person must be without work, actively looking for work, and available to work. More information can be found in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#).

Concepts and data items B - E



Child

A child is:

- any person aged under 15 years in the household
- a person of any age who is a natural, adopted, step or foster child of a couple or lone parent, usually resident in the same household, and who does not have a child or partner of their own usually resident in the household
- a person aged 15-17 years who was reported as being under the guardianship or care of another person aged 18 years and over in the household.

Children included in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are classified as either dependent students or non-dependent children. Parents included in the LFS who have dependants are classified as lone parents or couple families with a child or children under 15 years or dependent students.

See 'Family'.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Civilian population

All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over, except:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from Census of Population and Housing and estimated resident population counts
- overseas residents in Australia (with the intention to stay in Australia less than 12 months) and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

The civilian population aged 15 years and over are in scope of the LFS. LFS estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over are benchmarked against estimated resident population estimates for the same group.

Contributing family worker

A person who works without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

See 'Status in employment'.

Country of birth

The [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(SACC\) \(/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/latest-release\)](#) is used to classify country of birth in the LFS. The SACC is based on the concept of geographic proximity. It groups neighbouring countries into progressively broader geographic areas based on similar social, cultural, economic and political characteristics.

For those born overseas, the elapsed years since first arriving in Australia (with the intention to stay for more than 12 months, if arrival in Australia was less than 12 months ago) is also collected.

Persons born in the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, United States of America and South Africa are grouped into a category called 'Main English-speaking countries'. This is not a SACC grouping of countries.

See 'Elapsed years since arrival'.

Data Item	Tables
Major country group (subcontinent) of birth: SACC	
-Australia (includes External Territories)	
-Born overseas	
---Oceania and Antarctica	
---North-West Europe	
---Southern and Eastern Europe	
---North Africa and the Middle East	
---South-East Asia	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
---North-East Asia	Datacubes LM4, LM5
---Southern and Central Asia	
---Americas	
---Sub-Saharan Africa	
-Inadequately described / Born at sea	
-Not stated	
Main English-speaking countries	
-Born overseas	
---Main English-speaking countries	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
---Other than main English-speaking countries	Datacube LM7
-Born in Australia (includes External Territories)	
-Not stated / Inadequately described / Born at sea	

Couple family

A family with two persons who are in a registered or unregistered marriage and who are usually resident in the same household. The family may include others who are usually resident in the same household. A couple family may include a child or children.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Currently economically active

A person is considered to be economically active if that person contributes or is available and seeking to contribute to the production of goods and services that fall within the System of National Accounts production boundary. The currently economically active population is equivalent to the total labour force, and consists of the total number of persons defined as employed and unemployed. The currently economically active population is measured during a specified short period of time, and in Australia is based on the concept of usual residency of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. The currently economically active population excludes:

- persons under the age of 15 years;

- permanent members of the defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- persons not in the labour force.

For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#).

See 'Labour force status'.

See 'Usual resident'.

Dependants

All family members under the age of 15 years, and all children aged 15-24 years attending full-time education. Excludes those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Dependent student

A person who is:

- 15-24 years of age;
- usually resident in the same household as a parent, and
- who attends a secondary or tertiary educational institution as a full-time student.

Excludes those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Duration of current job

See 'Number of months with current employer or business'.

Duration of job search

The current and continuing period of unemployment for persons who are unemployed in the reference week. Duration of job search measures the elapsed number of weeks to the end of the reference week since an unemployed person began looking for work, or since that person last worked, whichever is the shorter. For persons who began looking for work while still employed, it is the period from the time the person last worked to the end of the reference week.

Persons who search for a job for 52 weeks or more are classified as long term unemployed.

See 'Number of weeks searching for a job'.

Applicable to unemployed persons only.

Data Item	Tables
Duration of job search - summary variables -Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks) -Average duration of job search (Weeks) -Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration -Under 52 weeks (under 12 months) ---Under 4 weeks (under 1 month) ---4 weeks and under 13 weeks (1-3 months) ---13 weeks and under 26 weeks (3-6 months) ---26 weeks and under 52 weeks (6-12 months) -52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed) ---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years) ---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14a Datacubes UM2, UM3
Duration of job search - summary variables -Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks) -Average duration of job search (Weeks) -Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration -Under 52 weeks (under 12 months) ---52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed) ---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years) ---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube FM4
Duration of job search - detailed duration -Under 52 weeks (under 1 year) ---52 weeks and over (1 year and over) ---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years) ---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 14b, 14c, 14d, 14e
Duration of job search - summary variables -Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks) -Average duration of job search (Weeks) -Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration -Under 52 weeks (under 12 months) ---Under 13 weeks (under 3 months) ---13 weeks and under 52 weeks (3-12 months) -52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube RM3
Duration of job search - summary variables -Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks) -Average duration of job search (Weeks) -Median duration of job search (Weeks)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b, UQ3a, UQ3b

Duration of unemployment

See 'Duration of job search'.

Educational attainment

See 'Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED)'.

Educational attendance (detailed)

Enrolled at secondary or high school or enrolled as a full-time student at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

Applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over.

Data Item	Tables
Attending educational institution ('000) Attending full-time education ('000) -Attending tertiary educational institution full-time ('000) -Attending school (aged 15-19 years) ('000)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 25a, 25b
Not attending full-time education ('000) -Attending tertiary educational institution part-time ('000) -Not attending educational institution ('000)	Datacube LQ2

Educational attendance (full-time)

Enrolled at secondary or high school or enrolled as a full-time student at a Technical and Further Education (TAFE) college, university, or other educational institution in the reference week.

Applicable to 15-24 year olds only.

Data Item	Tables
Attending full-time education	Labour Force, Australia Tables 15, 16 Datacubes LM3, LM3a
-Attending tertiary educational institution full-time	
-Attending school (aged 15-19 years)	
Not attending full-time education	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 03
Attending full-time education	
Not attending full-time education	

Elapsed years since arrival

The number of years since a person first arrived in Australia with the intention of staying for at least one year.

Applies to persons born overseas only.

Data Item	Tables
Elapsed years since arrival	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes LM4, LM7
-Arrived 20 or more years ago	
-Arrived 15-19 years ago	
-Arrived 10-14 years ago	
-Arrived 5-9 years ago	
-Arrived within last 5 years	
-Born in Australia	
-Not stated / Inadequately described / Born at sea	

See 'Country of birth'.

Employed

Persons aged 15 years and over who met one of the following criteria during the reference week:

- Worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (employees and owner managers of incorporated or unincorporated enterprises).
- Worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (contributing family workers).
- Were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job.
- Were owner managers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

See 'Labour force status'.

Employed full-time

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Employed part-time

Includes employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work during the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Employee

An employed person who does not operate their own incorporated or unincorporated enterprise. An employee works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, on a commission basis (with or

without a retainer), tips, piece-rates, or payment in kind.

See 'Status in employment'.

Employee with paid leave entitlements

Includes those who were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave, or both.

Data Item	Tables
Employee with paid leave entitlements	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 13
Employee without paid leave entitlements	Datacubes EQ04, EQ05, EQ07b

Employee without paid leave entitlements

Includes those who were not entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave, or did not know whether they were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave.

See 'Employee with paid leave entitlements'.

Employer

A person who operates their own incorporated or unincorporated enterprise and hires one or more employees.

See 'Status in employment'.

Employment to population ratio

The number of employed persons in a group expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over and part of the same group.

See 'Labour force status'

Engaged in employment and/or study

Persons fully engaged in employment and/or study include:

- persons participating in full-time formal study (including school); and/or
- persons in full-time employment; and/or
- persons participating in part-time formal study (including school) and in part-time employment.

Persons partially engaged in employment and/or study are participating in part-time formal study or in part-time employment only.

The engagement rate is derived as the proportion of those either fully or partially engaged in employment and/or study as a proportion of the population aged 15 years and over.

Data Item	Tables
Engaged in employment and/or study ('000)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 25a, 25b
-Fully engaged in employment and/or study ('000)	
-Partially engaged in employment and/or study ('000)	
Not engaged in either employment or study ('000)	
Engagement rate (%)	
-Fully engaged rate (%)	

Expectations of future employment with current employer or business

Whether or not an employed person expects to be working for their current employer or in their current business in 12 months' time. Reasons are provided for those who do not expect to be with their current employer or business in 12 months.

Applicable to employed persons only.

Data Item	Tables
Expects to be with current employer or business in 12 months Does not expect to be with current employer or business in 12 months -Employer or own business closing down or downsizing -Changing jobs or seeking other employment -Returning to study, travelling, or family reasons -Retiring -Seasonal, temporary, fixed contract or casual job -Expects to finish work for other reasons	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 17

Concepts and data items F - K



Family

Two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related in some way and are usually resident in the same household.

Families are identified firstly by the presence of either a couple relationship or a parent-child relationship, and then by a different blood relationship. In complex households, a primary family is identified in the first instance (usually a couple and/or a parent-child) and other related members of the household are allocated to the primary family.

Some households contain more than one family, a second family will only be identified in instances where the household has a couple relationship or a parent-child relationship that are not part of the primary family.

Any usual resident of a household is classified as a family member, a non-family member, a visitor (or relationship not determined).

See 'Relationship in household'.

Former worker

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Industry of last job and Occupation of last job variables.

See 'Industry of last job'.

See 'Occupation of last job'.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC) Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001] Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014] Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current] Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001] Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014] Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO) Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001] Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014] Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current] Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001] Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014] Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b

Full-time employed

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually

working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Full-time workers

See 'Full-time employed'.

Geography

The [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\) \(/statistics/statistical-geography/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs\)](#) is used to classify geographical areas of Australia for statistical purposes. In the Labour Force Survey (LFS), geographical areas relate to a person's usual residence, classified according to the ASGS.

The ASGS is constructed of approximately 368,000 mesh blocks covering the whole of Australia. The main structure of the ASGS is a hierarchy of Statistical Areas which are built from whole mesh blocks. Statistical Areas Level 1 to 3 have populations that are too small to support LFS outputs. Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) are the largest sub-state regions. They are specifically designed to perform as the smallest geographical output of LFS data.

Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014).

Geography groupings used in standard outputs include:

- State and territory: ASGS (2011) - state or territory of usual residence during the reference week.
- Greater capital city statistical area: ASGS (2011) - state and territory capital city regions which are aggregates of Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s). Greater capital city statistical areas are presented with the 'rest of state' region to cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The Greater capital city statistical area is named according to the city it represents, for example, Greater Sydney. The remainder of the state or territory is named rest of state/territory, for example, Rest of NSW. The whole of the ACT is included in the Greater Canberra region. Greater Canberra is presented as ACT to prevent confusion. The population of the Greater Darwin area is relatively small so estimates are presented at the territory level only. Also called Greater capital city and rest of state.
- Labour market region (SA4): ASGS (2011) - Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) and the smallest geographical output of LFS data. Labour market regions reflect the labour markets within each state and territory.

Data Item	Tables
State and territory: ASGS (2011)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Greater capital city statistical area: ASGS (2011)	Tables 16, 16b
Labour market region (SA4): ASGS (2011)	Datacubes MRM1, RM1, RM3, RQ1, RQ2
State and territory: ASGS (2011)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Greater capital city statistical area: ASGS (2011)	Table 02
	Datacubes LM1, LM9, EQ03
	Labour Force, Australia
	Tables 12, 16, 19, 23, 25
	Datacube GM1
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
	Tables 03, 05, 14c, 20c, 23a, 24a, 25a, 29a
	Datacubes LM1, LM4, LM5, LM7, EM1b, EM2b, EM3b, EM4b, EM5b, UM2, NM2, FM1, EQ02, EQ06, EQ08, UQ2b, UQ3b
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) – Territories only	Labour Force, Australia
	Tables 12a, 19a, 23a
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - New South Wales only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 4
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Victoria only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 5
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Queensland only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 6
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - South Australia only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 7
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Western Australia only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 8
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Tasmania only	Labour Force, Australia
	Table 9
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Northern Territory only	Labour Force, Australia
	Tables 10, 10a
State and territory (STT): ASGS (2011) - Australian Capital Territory only	Labour Force, Australia
	Tables 11, 11a

Greater capital city and rest of state

State and territory capital city regions are aggregates of Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s). Greater capital city statistical areas are presented with the 'rest of state' region to cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. The Greater capital city statistical area is named according to the city it represents, for example, Greater Sydney. The remainder of the state or territory is named rest of state/territory, for example, Rest of NSW. The whole of the ACT is included in the Greater Canberra region. Greater Canberra is presented as ACT to prevent confusion. The population of the Greater Darwin area is relatively small so estimates are presented at the territory level only. Also called Greater capital city and rest of state.

Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0>Main+Features12014).

See 'Geography'.

Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)

See 'Greater capital city and rest of state'.

Gross flows

The LFS sample is made up of eight rotation groups of approximately equal size and characteristics. Each rotation group is in the survey for a period of eight months. Respondents who report in consecutive months make up the matched common sample from which gross flow figures are derived. Gross flows examine the transition between the different labour force status classifications from one point in time to the next.

After taking account of the sample rotation and varying non-response in each month, the matched common sample is approximately 80 percent of the original dataset for any month. For this reason, the figures presented in the gross flows products do not align with published labour force estimates.

The unmatched sample identifies those respondents who did not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
---Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – previous month ('000)	

See 'Matched common sample'.

See 'Unmatched sample'.

Has never worked before

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Industry of last job and Occupation of last job variables.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

Highest year of school completed (ASCED)

The year a person left school.

Presented for 15-24 year olds only.

Data Item	Tables
Senior Secondary Education Year 12 or equivalent Year 11 Junior Secondary Education Year 10 Year 9 or below/Never attended school	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube LM3a

Hours actually worked

The number of hours a person actually worked during the reference week, which is the week prior to interview.

Actual hours of work refers to a specified reference period (e.g. a week) and includes:

- hours actually worked during normal periods of work;
- time spent in addition to hours worked during normal periods of work (including overtime);
- time spent at the place of work on activities such as the preparation of the workplace, repairs and maintenance, preparation and cleaning of tools, and the preparation of receipts, time sheets and reports;
- time spent by self-employed persons in seeking customers for a product or service (e.g. tendering for contracts, visiting prospective clients);
- time spent at the place of work waiting or standing by due to machinery or process breakdown, accident, lack of supplies, power or internet access, etc;
- time corresponding to short rest periods (resting time) including tea and coffee breaks or prayer breaks;
- travel time connected to work (excluding commuting time);
- training and skills enhancement related to the job or employer; and
- hours worked without paid in a family business or for payment in kind.

Excluded are:

- hours paid for but not worked, such as paid annual leave, public holidays or paid sick leave;
- meal breaks (e.g. lunch breaks);
- paid and unpaid time 'on call';
- time spent on travel to and from work when no productive activity for the job is performed (e.g. commuting time);
- time off during working hours to attend outside educational activities such as university, technical or other college classes; even if it is authorised; and
- unpaid voluntary work.

For multiple job holders the LFS collects a separate measure of actual hours worked in main job and in all jobs.

Data Item	Tables
Hours actually worked in all jobs - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 09, 11, 12, 13 Datacubes EQ02, EQ03, EQ04, EQ05, EQ06, EQ07a, EQ07b, EQ08, EQ09, EQ12, EQ13, EM1a, EM1b, EM2a, EM2b, EM6, EM6a, FM3, RQ1, RQ2
Hours actually worked in all jobs - detailed hour groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 09, 11, 12, 13 Datacubes EM1a, EM1b, EM2a, EM2b, FM3, EQ04
Hours actually worked in main job - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EM4a, EM4b, EQ11
Hours actually worked in main job - detailed hour groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EM4a, EM4b, EQ11

Hours usually worked

Hours usually worked refers to a typical period rather than a specified reference period. The concept of hours usually worked applies both to persons at work and to persons temporarily absent from work. The time includes all regular paid and unpaid overtime.

Data Item	Tables
Hours usually worked in all jobs - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 10 Datacubes EM3a, EM3b, EQ10
Hours usually worked in all jobs - detailed hour groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 10 Datacubes EM3a, EM3b, EQ10
Hours usually worked in main job - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EM5a, EM5b, EQ14
Hours usually worked in main job - detailed hour groups	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 10 Datacubes EM5a, EM5b, EQ14

Hours worked

See 'Hours actually worked'.

See 'Hours usually worked'.

See 'Monthly hours worked in all jobs' (previously called aggregate hours worked).

Household

A household may be either:

1. a one-person household, i.e. a person who makes provision for his own food and other essentials of living without combining with any other person, or
2. a multi-person household, i.e. a group of two or more persons who make some common provision for food or other essentials of living. The persons in the group may pool their incomes and have a common budget to a greater or lesser extent; they may be related or unrelated persons or a combination of both. The general criterion to be used in identifying the members of a multi-person household relates to the existence of common housekeeping arrangements.

Lodgers who receive accommodation but not meals are treated as separate households.

Boarders who receive both accommodation and meals are not treated as separate households.

Households are an important operational unit of the LFS. See [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](https://statistics/department/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release).

Incoming rotation group

The LFS sample is made up of eight rotation groups of approximately equal size and characteristics. Each rotation group is in the survey for a period of eight months. Each month a new rotation group enters the sample to replace the rotation group that completed its eighth survey the month before. The new rotation group is called the incoming rotation group.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
---Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - previous month ('000)	

Industry

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce both goods and services. The [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\) \(/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-industrial-classification-anzsic/latest-release\)](#) is used to classify industries in Australia and New Zealand. In the LFS, ANZSIC is used to describe the industry of an employed person's main job or business, or an unemployed person's last job or business.

ANZSIC is a hierarchical classification that provides a broad overall picture of the economy at the division level (1 digit), and increasingly detailed dissections at the subdivision (2 digit), group (3 digit) and class (4 digit) levels. The class level of the ANZSIC classification is not coded or available from the LFS.

Market sector industries include all ANZSIC divisions except for Public administration and safety, Education and training, and Health care and social assistance. These three divisions make up the non-market sector.

Applicable to employed persons only.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of main job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 04, 05, 11, 19, 27 Datacubes EQ03, EQ05, EQ06, EQ09, EQ10, EQ11, EQ12, RQ1
Industry division and sub-division of main job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 06 Datacube EQ06
Industry division, sub-division and group of main job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube EQ06
Market	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EQ03, EQ05, EQ06, EQ09, EQ10, EQ11, EQ12, EQ14, RQ1
-Agriculture, forestry and fishing	
-Rest of market Non-market	
-Education and training	
-Rest of non-market	

Industry of last job

The industry an unemployed person last worked in, classified according to the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\) \(/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-industrial-classification-anzsic/latest-release\)](#).

Industry of last job is collected from unemployed persons who have worked in the last 2 years.

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are

presented as part of the Industry of last job variable.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

Institutionalised persons

Residents of selected institutions or special dwellings excluding live-in staff who do not usually live in a private dwelling. Institutions include hospitals, homes (including general homes, other hospitals, convalescent homes, homes for the aged, retirement homes, homes for the handicapped and orphanages), and prisons.

'Institutionalised' is presented as a residual category for Reason not in the labour force.

Concepts and data items L - N



Labour force

A person is considered to be economically active if that person contributes or is available and seeking to contribute to the production of goods and services that fall within the System of National Accounts production boundary. The currently economically active population is equivalent to the total labour force, and consists of the total number of persons defined as employed and unemployed. The currently economically active population is measured during a specified short period of time, and in Australia is based on the concept of usual residency of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. The currently economically active population excludes:

- persons under the age of 15 years;
- permanent members of the defence forces;
- short term visitors to Australia; and
- persons not in the labour force.

For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release).

See 'Labour force status'.

See 'Usual resident'.

Labour force status

Labour Force Status classifies the in-scope population into three mutually exclusive categories at a given point in time: employed; unemployed and not in the labour force. The employed and unemployed categories together make up the labour force, which is a measure of the number of persons contributing to, or willing and able to contribute to, the supply of labour at a specific time. The remaining population is referred to as Not in the labour force. This group represents the balance of the in-scope population.

For detailed description see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-info](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information)

Labour force status in current month

Information about the labour force status of persons in the most recent monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

This population is used in gross flows to show changes between the current month and the month immediately prior to that month. Gross flows information enables analysis of the transition between the different labour force status classifications from one point in time to the next.

The unmatched sample identifies those respondents who do not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – current month ('000)	

Labour force status in previous month

Information about the labour force status of persons in the month prior to the current month.

This population is used in gross flows to show changes between the previous month and the current month. Gross flows information enables analysis of the transition between the different labour force status classifications from one point in time to the next.

The unmatched sample identifies those respondents who do not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
---Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – previous month ('000)	

Labour force underutilisation rate

The sum of the number of unemployed persons and the number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status	
-Employed total ('000)	
-Underemployed total ('000)	
-Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
-Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	Labour Force, Australia
-Unemployed total ('000)	Tables 22, 23, 23a
-Unemployment rate (%)	
-Labour force total ('000)	
-Underutilisation rate (%)	
Labour force status	
-Employed total ('000)	
-Underemployed total ('000)	
---Underemployed full-time (worked part-time for economic reasons) ('000)	
---Underemployed part-time (prefer more hours ('000)	Labour Force, Australia
-Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	Tables 24, 25
-Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
-Unemployed total ('000)	
-Unemployment rate (%)	
-Labour force total ('000)	
-Underutilisation rate (%)	

Labour market region

Labour market regions reflect the labour markets within each state and territory. Labour market regions are equivalent to Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) and are smallest geographical output of LFS data.

The [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian+Statistical+Geography+Standard+(ASGS)) ([https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian+Statistical+Geography+Standard+\(ASGS\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian+Statistical+Geography+Standard+(ASGS))) is used to classify geographical areas of Australia for statistical purposes. In the LFS, geographical areas relate to a person's usual residence, classified according to the ASGS.

The ASGS is constructed of approximately 347,000 mesh blocks covering the whole of Australia. The main structure of the ASGS is a hierarchy of Statistical Areas which are built from whole mesh blocks. Statistical Areas Level 1 to 3 have populations that are too small to support LFS outputs. Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) are the largest sub-state regions of the main structure of the ASGS. They are specifically designed to perform as the smallest geographical output of LFS data. Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0Main+Features12014>).

See 'Geography'.

Last worked two or more years ago

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Industry of last job and Occupation of last job variables.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

Left last job

Unemployed persons who have worked in the last two years are classified by whether they left or lost their job.

Persons who provided one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as leaving their last job:

- unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours;
- to obtain a better job or conditions;
- the job was a holiday job;
- they left the job to return to studies;
- their last job was running their own business which closed down or was sold, for reasons other than financial difficulties;
- start own or new business;
- family reasons: get married, have children, holidays, caring, move house, spouse transferred; or
- retired.

Persons who provide one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as losing their last job:

- laid off or retrenched from that job;
- left that job because of their own ill-health or injury;
- job was seasonal or temporary;
- they were running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties; or dismissed.

Data Item	Tables
Reason left or lost last job	
-Lost last job	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
-Left last job	Datacubes UQ2a, UQ3a.

Level of highest educational attainment (ASCED)

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

For more information regarding how Level of highest educational attainment is derived see [Education Variables \(http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS%5Cabs@.nsf/0/CE24579A8895FE78CA25713E0020921B?Opendocument\)](http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS%5Cabs@.nsf/0/CE24579A8895FE78CA25713E0020921B?Opendocument). It is

categorised according to the [Australian Standard Classification of Education \(ASCED\) \(/statistics/classifications/australian-standard-classification-education-ascend/2001\)](https://statistics.classifications.australian-standard-classification-education-ascend/2001). Level of education classification.

Data Item	Tables
Postgraduate Degree	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 24a, 24b Datacubes LQ1, LQ2
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
Bachelor Degree	
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
Certificate III/IV	
Year 12 or equivalent	
Year 11	
Year 10	
Below Year 10/No educational attainment	

Lone parent

A person with a parent-child relationship with at least one child usually resident in the household, and no husband, wife or partner usually resident in the household. The child may be either dependent or non-dependent. Previously referred to as sole parents.

See 'Relationship in household'.

Long-term unemployed

Persons who have searched for a job for 52 weeks or more are classified as long term unemployed.

Duration of job search is measured by the elapsed number of weeks to the end of the reference week since an unemployed person began looking for work, or since that person last worked, whichever is the shorter. For persons who began looking for work while still employed, it is the period from the time the person last worked to the end of the reference week.

Data Item	Tables
Duration of job search - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14a Datacubes UM2, UM3
-Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks)	
-Average duration of job search (Weeks)	
-Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration	
-Under 52 weeks (under 12 months)	
---Under 4 weeks (under 1 month)	
---4 weeks and under 13 weeks (1-3 months)	
---13 weeks and under 26 weeks (3-6 months)	
---26 weeks and under 52 weeks (6-12 months)	
-52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed)	
---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years)	
---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	
Duration of job search - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube FM4
-Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks)	
-Average duration of job search (Weeks)	
-Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration	
-Under 52 weeks (under 12 months)	
-Long-term unemployed	
---52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed)	
---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years)	
---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14b
-Under 52 weeks (under 1 year)	
-Long-term unemployed	
---52 weeks and over (1 year and over)	
---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years)	
---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	
Duration of job search - summary variables	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube RM3
-Number of weeks searching for a job ('000 Weeks)	
-Average duration of job search (Weeks)	
-Median duration of job search (Weeks)	
Duration of job search - detailed duration	
-Under 52 weeks (under 12 months)	
---Under 13 weeks (under 3 months)	
---13 weeks and under 52 weeks (3-12 months)	
-52 weeks and over (Long-term unemployed)	

Long-term unemployment ratio

Persons who have searched for a job for 52 weeks or more are classified as long-term unemployed. The long-term

unemployment ratio is the number of long-term unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the total unemployed population.

Duration of job search is measured by the elapsed number of weeks to the end of the reference week since an unemployed person began looking for work, or since that person last worked, whichever is the shorter. For persons who began looking for work while still employed, it is the period from the time the person last worked to the end of the reference week.

Data Item	Tables
Duration of job search	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14b
-Under 52 weeks (under 1 year)	
-Long-term unemployed	
---52 weeks and over (1 year and over)	
---52 weeks and under 104 weeks (1-2 years)	
---104 weeks and over (2 years and over)	
Long-term unemployment ratio (%)	

Looking for first job

Unemployed persons who have never worked before are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Industry of last job and Occupation of last job variables.

Data Item	Tables
Industry division of last job (ANZSIC)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ2b
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

Lost last job

Unemployed persons who have worked in the last two years are classified by whether they left or lost their job.

Persons who provided one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as leaving their last job:

- unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours;
- to obtain a better job or conditions;
- the job was a holiday job;
- they left the job to return to studies;
- their last job was running their own business which closed down or was sold, for reasons other than financial difficulties;
- start own or new business;
- family reasons: get married, have children, holidays, caring, move house, spouse transferred; or
- retired.

Persons who provide one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as losing their last job:

- laid off or retrenched from that job;
- left that job because of their own ill-health or injury;
- job was seasonal or temporary;
- they were running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties; or dismissed.

Data Item	Tables
Reason left or lost last job	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ3a.
-Lost last job	
-Left last job	

Main English-speaking countries

See 'Country of birth'.

Main job

The job in which the person usually works the most hours. Variables such as industry and occupation are only collected in relation to a person's main job, and not each job they hold.

Major country group (subcontinent) of birth: SACC

See 'Country of birth'

Marital status

See 'Social marital status'.

Market sector and non-market sector

The market sector includes the industries: Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Mining; Manufacturing; Electricity, gas, water and waste services; Construction; Wholesale trade; Retail trade; Accommodation and food services; Transport, postal and warehousing; Information media and telecommunications; Financial and insurance services; Rental, hiring and real estate services; Professional, scientific and technical services; Administrative and support services; Arts and recreation services; and Other services.

The non-market sector includes the industries: Education and training; Public administration & safety; and Health care and social assistance.

Industries are grouped into the market or non-market sector at the ANZSIC Division level. For more information see [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/australian-system-national-accounts-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#).

Data Item	Tables
Market	Labour Force, Australia Table 21
-Agriculture, forestry and fishing	
-Rest of market	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes EQ03, EQ05, EQ06, EQ09, EQ10, EQ11, EQ12, EQ14, RQ1
Non-market	
-Education and training	
-Rest of non-market	

Matched common sample

Respondents who report in consecutive months make up the matched common sample from which gross flow figures are derived.

After taking account of the sample rotation and varying non-response in each month, the matched common sample

is approximately 80 percent of the original dataset for any month. The figures presented in gross flows do not align with published labour force estimates. The unmatched sample identifies those respondents who do not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
---Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - previous month ('000)	

See 'Gross flows'.

See 'Unmatched sample'.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs

Monthly hours worked in all jobs measures the total number of actual hours worked by employed persons in a calendar month. Monthly hours worked estimates can be aggregated across time to produce quarterly and annual estimates.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs was previously referred to as aggregate monthly hours worked.

For more information about this measure see: [Information Paper: Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6290.0.55.001Main+Features12009?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6290.0.55.001Main+Features12009?OpenDocument).

See 'Quarterly hours worked in all jobs'

Data Item	Tables
Monthly hours worked in all jobs	Labour Force, Australia Tables 19, 19a
-Monthly hours worked in all jobs (employed full-time)	
-Monthly hours worked in all jobs (employed part-time)	

Non-market sector

The market sector includes the industries: Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Mining; Manufacturing; Electricity, gas, water and waste services; Construction; Wholesale trade; Retail trade; Accommodation and food services; Transport, postal and warehousing; Information media and telecommunications; Financial and insurance services; Rental, hiring and real estate services; Professional, scientific and technical services; Administrative and support services; Arts and recreation services; and Other services.

The non-market sector includes the industries: Education and training; Public administration & safety; and Health care and social assistance.

Industries are grouped into the market or non-market sector at the ANZSIC Division level. For more information see [Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detail\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detail)

[led-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/australian-system-national-accounts-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\).](#)

Data Item	Tables
Market	Labour Force, Australia
-Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Table 21
-Rest of market	
Non-market	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
-Education and training	Datacubes EQ03, EQ05, EQ06, EQ09, EQ10, EQ11, EQ12, EQ14, RQ1
-Rest of non-market	

Not in the Labour Force (NILF)

Persons not in the labour force are those persons who were not employed or unemployed during the reference week. For detailed description see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\).](#)

See 'Labour force status'.

Number of months with current employer or business

The elapsed period to the end of the reference week that an employed person has held their main job, that is the job in which a person works the most hours.

Data Item	Tables
Detailed number of months with current employer or business	
-Fewer than 12 months	
-Fewer than 3 months	
--3-5 months	
--6-11 months	
-12 months or more	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
--1-2 years	Datacube EQ02
--3-5 years	
--6-9 years	
--10-19 years	
--20 years or more	
Number of months with current employer or business	
-With current employer or business for fewer than 12 months	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
-With current employer or business for 12 months or more	Table 17

Number of weeks searching for a job

Aggregate number of weeks since a currently unemployed person began looking for work, or since a person last worked for two weeks or more, whichever is shorter.

Number of weeks searching for a job was previously referred to as aggregate duration of unemployment.

See 'Duration of job search'.

Concepts and data items O - S



Occupation

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation. The [ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1220.0Main+Features12013,%20Version%201.3?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1220.0Main+Features12013,%20Version%201.3?OpenDocument) is a skill-based classification used to classify jobs in the Australian and New Zealand labour markets. In the Labour Force Survey (LFS), ANZSCO is used to describe the occupation of an employed person's current main job or an unemployed person's last job.

ANZSCO is a hierarchical classification that provides a broad overall picture of the labour market at the major (1 digit) level, and increasingly detailed dissections at the sub-major (2 digit), minor (3 digit), unit group (4 digit) and occupation (6 digit) levels. ANZSCO defines a job as a set of tasks performed by one person for an employer

(including self-employment) in return for payment or profit.

Data Item	Tables
Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 07, 12, 19, 28 Datacubes EQ7b, EQ09, EQ13, RQ2
Occupation major and sub-major group of main job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube EQ07a
Occupation major, sub-major, minor and unit group of main job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacube EQ08
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b

Occupation of last job

The occupation of an unemployed person's most recent job, classified according to the [ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1220.0Main+Features12013,%20Version%201.3?OpenDocument\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1220.0Main+Features12013,%20Version%201.3?OpenDocument).

Occupation of last job is collected from unemployed persons who have worked in the last 2 years.

Unemployed persons who have not worked in the last 2 years are categorised as those who have never worked before (looking for first job) or those who last worked 2 or more years ago (former worker). These categories are presented as part of the Occupation of last job variable.

Data Item	Tables
Occupation major group of last job (ANZSCO)	
Last worked part-time (for 2 weeks or more) less than 2 years ago (recent part-time worker) [1991-2001]	
Last worked (for 2 weeks or more) 2 years or more ago (former worker) [1991-2014]	
Last worked 2 years or more ago (former worker) [2014-current]	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed
Has never worked for 2 weeks or more but has worked (for less than 2 weeks) [1991-2001]	Datacubes UQ3a, UQ3b
Has never worked (for 2 weeks or more) before (looking for first job) [2001-2014]	
Has never worked before (looking for first job) [1991-2001, 2014-current]	

One parent family

See 'Lone parent'.

Original series

Estimates before the seasonal and irregular impacts have been removed. Residual noise, seasonal patterns and the underlying direction of the series make it difficult to compare original series across different points in time.

See 'Seasonally adjusted series'.

See 'Trend series'.

Outgoing rotation group

The LFS sample is made up of eight rotation groups of approximately equal size and characteristics. Each rotation group is in the survey for a period of eight months. Each month a new rotation group enters the sample to replace the rotation group that completed its eighth survey the month before. During its eighth and last month in the survey, a rotation group is called the outgoing rotation group.

Owner Manager of Incorporated Enterprise (OMIE)

A person who operates his or her own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as limited liability company).

An owner manager of an incorporated enterprise (an OMIE) may or may not hire one or more employees in addition

to themselves and/or other owners of that business.

See 'Status in employment'.

Owner Manager of Unincorporated Enterprise (OMUE)

A person who operates his or her own unincorporated enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade.

An owner manager of an unincorporated enterprise may or may not hire one or more employees in addition to themselves and/or other owners of that business.

See 'Status in employment'.

Participation rate

The labour force (employed plus unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

See 'Labour force status'.

Part-time employed

Includes employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Part-time workers

Includes employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

See 'Labour force status'.

Persons ('000)

The number of persons with described characteristics expressed in thousands.

Persons not in the labour force

Persons not in the labour force are those persons who were not employed or unemployed during the reference week. For detailed description see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-release\)](#).

See 'Labour force status'.

Quarterly hours worked in all jobs

Quarterly hours worked in all jobs is a three month aggregate of monthly hours worked in all jobs. It shows the total number of actual hours worked by all employed persons in a period of three calendar months.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs was previously referred to as aggregate monthly hours worked. For more information about this measure see: [Information Paper: Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6290.0.55.001Main+Features12009?OpenDocument\)](#).

Data Item	Tables
Quarterly hours worked in all jobs ('000 hours)	Labour Force, Australia Table 21

Reason for unemployment

See 'Reason left or lost last job'.

Reason left or lost last job

Unemployed persons who have worked in the last two years are classified by whether they left or lost their job.

Persons who provided one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as leaving their last job:

- unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours;
- to obtain a better job or conditions;
- the job was a holiday job;
- they left the job to return to studies;
- their last job was running their own business which closed down or was sold, for reasons other than financial difficulties;
- start own or new business;
- family reasons: get married, have children, holidays, caring, move house, spouse transferred; or
- retired.

Persons who provide one of the following reasons for ceasing their last job are categorised as losing their last job:

- laid off or retrenched from that job;
- left that job because of their own ill-health or injury;
- job was seasonal or temporary;
- they were running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties; or
- dismissed.

Data Item	Tables
Reason left or lost last job	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes UQ2a, UQ3a
-Lost last job	
-Left last job	

Reason not in the labour force

A person's reason for not participating in the labour force.

Applicable only to persons not in the labour force. Persons classified as not in the labour force are those persons who were not employed or unemployed during the reference week.

Data Item	Tables
Reason not in the labour force	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Datacubes NM1, NM2
-Waiting to start work, unavailable to start, but starting work in less than four weeks [1991-2001]	
-Waiting to start work in 4 weeks or more [1991-2001]	
-Actively looked for work but unavailable to start [1991-2001]	
-Actively looked for work, unavailable to start, but available in next four weeks	
-Actively looked for work but unavailable to start in next four weeks	
-Passively looked for work	
-Did not look for work	
-Permanently not intending to work (aged 65 and over)	
-Permanently unable to work	
-Institutionalised	
-At boarding school	

Reference week

LFS data are obtained by interview (with an interviewer face-to-face or over the telephone, or through an online questionnaire). Interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of each month. Most data obtained relates to the week before the interview, this is referred to as the

reference week.

The reference week is not an output in LFS standard products. It is used as a mechanism to help respondents answer questions appropriately, and as a reference point to determine if a person was available to start work during a discrete period of time. This is important in determining if a person without work is unemployed or if they are not in the labour force. For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-releases/\)](https://statistics.detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/latest-releases/).

Relationship in household

Describes the relationship of each person residing within the same household.

Data Item	Tables
Family member	
-Husband, wife or partner	
--Husband, wife or partner with dependants	
----Husband, wife or partner with children under 15	
----Husband, wife or partner with no children under 15 and with dependent students	
--Husband, wife or partner without dependants	
----Husband, wife or partner with non-dependent children only	
----Husband, wife or partner without children	
-Lone parent	
--Lone parent with dependants	
----Lone parent with children under 15	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 14e
----Lone parent with no children under 15 and with dependent students	Datacubes FM1, FM2, FM3, FM4
--Lone parent without dependants	
----Lone parent with non-dependent children only	
-Dependent student	
-Non-dependent child	
-Other related individual	
Non-family member	
-Non-family member lone person	
-Non-family member not living alone	
Visitor	
Relationship not determined	

Residual categories and supplementary codes

Residual categories in a classification are labelled Not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.), Not elsewhere included (n.e.i.), Other or Miscellaneous.

These categories are necessary because although in a classification meaningful categories are created through the application of certain criteria, not all observations can be classified into a homogeneous group, or the size of the observations does not allow them to be separately identified.

Supplementary codes are used to process inadequately described responses. Not Further Defined codes (n.f.d., sometimes referred to as Undefined codes) are used to process incomplete, non-specific or imprecise responses which cannot be coded to the most detailed level of a classification structure. For example, birthplace responses relating to places which cannot be identified as lying within the boundaries of a country separately identified in the [Standard Australian Classification of Countries \(SACC\) \(https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/latest-release\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/standard-australian-classification-countries-sacc/latest-release), but which lie wholly within the boundaries of one of the classification's Minor Groups, are coded to that Minor Group.

It is important to note the distinction between Not Elsewhere Classified (NEC) categories and Not Further Defined (NFD) codes. NEC categories are a formal part of a classification's structure, designed to make a classification complete and exhaustive of all observations in scope. Adequately described, specific responses are coded to NEC categories in instances where a suitable substantive category is not included in the classification. As explained above, NFD codes are designed to facilitate processing by allowing inadequately described or non-specific responses to be coded to a broader level of the classification rather than be lost altogether. NFD codes are not a formal part of the classification.

Other supplementary codes are also provided in classifications, for operational purposes, to facilitate the coding of responses to:

- Inadequately Described - where a response contains insufficient information to be coded to any level of the classification;
- Not Stated - where no response is provided; and
- Not Applicable - where the question does not apply to the person and so no response is required.

Retrenchment

Includes retrenchment occurring in any job held in the three months prior to the survey reference week, not just the last job, and irrespective of a person's current labour force status. This item is measured by the total number of persons who ceased a job during the last three months because they were either:

1. Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, no work was available; or
2. Self-employed persons whose business closed down for economic reasons, including went broke, liquidated, no work, no supply or demand.

Data Item	Tables
Retrenched (in previous quarter)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 29a, 29b
Employed total (previous quarter)	
Retrenchment rate	

Seasonally adjusted series

Seasonally adjusted estimates refer to original data that has had seasonal patterns removed. They contain residual noise and irregular influences that may be present in the underlying data. For very volatile series this makes it very difficult to compare seasonally adjusted movements at different points in time. Seasonally adjusted estimates are revised as new estimates become available.

See 'Original series'.

See 'Trend series'.

Sex

Demographic variable describing the male/female classification of the sex of a person.

Data Item	Tables
Persons -Males -Females	Labour Force, Australia Tables 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10a, 11, 11a, 12, 12a, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 23a, 24, 25 Datacube GM1
	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 01, 02, 03, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 14a, 14b, 16, 16b, 17, 19, 20b, 23a, 23b, 24b, 25b, 29b
	Datacubes LM1, LM3, LM3a, LM4, LM5, LM7, LM9, EQ02, EQ03, EQ04, EQ06, EQ07a, EQ08, EQ09, RQ1, RQ2, EM1a, EM2a, EM3a, EM4a, EM5a, EM6, EM6a, RM1, FM1, UQ2a, UQ3a NM1

Social marital status

A presence or absence of marriage for any person. The marriage may be registered or de facto.

Data Item	Tables
Married	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 01
Not married	
	Datacube LM1

Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)

See 'Country of birth'.

State and territory

This refers to State or territory of usual residence during the reference week.

Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0 Main+Features12014\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6262.0>Main+Features12014).

See 'Geography'.

Statistical Area level 4 (SA4)

The [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\) \(/statistics/statistical-geography/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs\)](https://statistics/statistical-geography/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs) is used to classify geographical areas of Australia for statistical purposes. In the LFS, geographical areas relate to a person's usual residence, classified according to the ASGS.

The ASGS is constructed of approximately 347,000 mesh blocks covering the whole of Australia. The main structure of the ASGS is a hierarchy of Statistical Areas which are built from whole mesh blocks. Statistical Areas Level 1 to 3 have populations that are too small to support LFS outputs. Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) are the largest sub-state regions. They are specifically designed to perform as the smallest geographical output of LFS data. Geographical classifications in standard labour force outputs use the ASGS from July 1991 onwards. Where older time series are presented, old classifications are used. These are clearly marked in the outputs. For more information see [Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6262.0/\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6262.0/).

Labour market regions are equivalent to Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) and are smallest geographical output of LFS data.

See 'Geography'.

Status in employment

Status in employment is determined by an employed person's position in relation to their job, and is usually collected in respect of a person's main job if they hold more than one job. Employed persons are classified according to the reported relationship between the person and the enterprise for which they work, together with the legal status of the enterprise where this can be established. The groups include:

- Employee with paid leave entitlements,
- Employee without paid leave entitlements,
- Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) with employees,
- Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) without employees,
- Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise (OMUE) with employees,
- Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise (OMUE) without employees, and
- Contributing family workers.

Applicable to employed persons only.

Data Item	Tables
Employee	
Owner manager of incorporated enterprise	
-Owner manager of incorporated enterprise with employees	
-Owner manager of incorporated enterprise without employees	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 08
Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise	
-Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise with employees	
-Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise without employees	Datacubes EM6, EM6a
Contributing family worker	
Employee	
-with paid leave entitlements	
-without paid leave entitlements	
Owner manager of incorporated enterprise with employees	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 13
Owner manager of incorporated enterprise without employees	
Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise with employees	
Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise without employees	Datacubes EQ04, EQ05, EQ07b
Contributing family worker	

Concepts and data items T - Z



Trend series

A smoothed seasonally adjusted series of estimates. The trend estimate indicates the underlying level of the series and is directly comparable at different points in time. Trend estimates are revised as new original or seasonally adjusted estimates become available.

See 'Original series'.

See 'Seasonally adjusted series'.

Underemployed workers

Employed persons aged 15 years and over who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They include:

- persons employed part-time who want to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey, or
- persons employed full-time who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these persons wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/2023/concepts-and-sources/underutilised-labour#definitions-used-in-abs-surveys\)](/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/2023/concepts-and-sources/underutilised-labour#definitions-used-in-abs-surveys).

Data Item	Tables
Employed total ('000)	
Underemployed total ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	Labour Force, Australia
Unemployed total ('000)	Tables 22, 23, 23a
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	
Underemployed total ('000)	
-Underemployed full-time (worked part-time for economic reasons) ('000)	
-Underemployed part-time (prefer more hours) ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	Labour Force, Australia
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	Tables 24, 25
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	
Underemployed ('000)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 19
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	

Underemployment ratio

The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of total employed.

Data Item	Tables
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 22, 23, 23a
Underemployed total ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 24, 25
Underemployed total ('000)	
-Underemployed full-time (worked part-time for economic reasons) ('000)	
-Underemployed part-time (prefer more hours) ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Table 19
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	

Underutilisation rate

The sum of the number of unemployed persons and the number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Data Item	Tables
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 22, 23, 23a
Underemployed total ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	
Employed total ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 24, 25
Underemployed total ('000)	
-Underemployed full-time (worked part-time for economic reasons) ('000)	
-Underemployed part-time (prefer more hours) ('000)	
Underemployment ratio (proportion of employed) (%)	
Underemployment rate (proportion of labour force) (%)	
Unemployed total ('000)	
Unemployment rate (%)	
Labour force total ('000)	
Underutilisation rate (%)	

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployed looked for full-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work; or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Data Item	Tables
Unemployed looked for full-time work ('000)	Labour Force, Australia Tables 24, 25
-Unemployed looked for only full-time work ('000)	
-Unemployed looked for both full-time and part-time work ('000)	

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployed looked for only part-time work

Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only; or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployed persons classified by industry and occupation

See 'Industry of last job'.

See 'Occupation of last job'.

Unemployment rate

The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the total labour force in the same group.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployment rate looked for full-time work

The number of unemployed persons who looked for full-time work expressed as a percentage of the full-time labour force.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unemployment rate looked for only part-time work

The number of unemployed persons who looked for only part-time work expressed as a percentage of the part-time labour force.

See 'Labour force status'.

Unmatched common sample

The unmatched common sample consists of respondents from households who were part of the seven common rotation groups for the current and previous month (i.e. not part of the incoming group), but for whom a response was obtained in the current but not the previous month, or vice versa. This may be due to, for example, new or different persons residing in the same household, or the same respondent from a household being unable to be contacted in the current or previous month.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
-Employed full-time ('000)	
-Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
-Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over – previous month ('000)	

See 'Incoming rotation group'.

See 'Outgoing rotation group'.

See 'Unmatched sample'.

Unmatched sample

The unmatched sample for a particular month identifies those respondents who do not have a labour force status for the previous month, or those who do not have a labour force status for the current month.

The total unmatched sample consists of distinct two groups:

- the incoming rotation group, and
- the unmatched common sample.

In considering the contribution of the unmatched sample, different sample components will be relevant to the analysis. If the contribution to growth between months is being determined, the difference between the outgoing and incoming rotation groups, as well as differences in the unmatched common sample, will be relevant. If the analysis is focussed on a particular level estimate for a given month, only the incoming rotation group and the unmatched common sample which is new to sample for the month will be of interest.

Data Item	Tables
Labour force status - current month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
---Employed full-time ('000)	
---Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
---Unmatched in common sample (responded in current month but not in previous) ('000)	
---Incoming rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - current month ('000)	
Labour force status - previous month	Labour Force, Australia Datacube GM1
-Employed total ('000)	
-Employed full-time ('000)	
-Employed part-time ('000)	
-Unemployed ('000)	
-Labour force ('000)	
-Not in the labour force (NILF) ('000)	
-Matched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched sample ('000)	
-Unmatched in common sample (responded in previous month but not in current) ('000)	
-Outgoing rotation group ('000)	
-Civilian population aged 15 years and over - previous month ('000)	

See 'Incoming rotation group'

See 'Outgoing rotation group'

See 'Unmatched common sample'

Usual hours worked

See 'Hours usually worked'

Usual resident

The scope of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is limited to persons who are usual residents of Australia. This scope is consistent with the measurement of Australia's Estimated Resident Population (ERP), the official measure of the population of Australia, which is also based on the concept of usual residence.

Usual residency refers to all persons, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. In calculating ERP, the ABS employs a '12/16 month rule' where the traveller can be added to, or subtracted from, ERP if they have stayed in, or been absent from, Australia for a period of 12 months or more, over a 16 month period. This 12 month period does not have to be continuous. Travellers who arrive in Australia for a holiday or a short stay are not counted as part of the resident population, and conversely those who leave for short periods are not excluded.

In practise, the "12/16" month rule is applied in the LFS by determining if a survey respondent who was born overseas, and has been in Australia for less than 12 months, intends to stay in Australia for a period of 12 months or longer.

There are generally two approaches for analysing data related to labour underutilisation - headcount (number of persons) and volume measures (based on hours). While headline measures of unemployment and underemployment usually relate to headcounts, the hours measures provide further information important for analysing the labour market.

Specifically, volume measures relate to the unused potential hours of labour in comparison to the hours usually worked by employed persons. They are relevant for analysing the spare capacity of the labour force, as they take into account the number of hours sought and additional hours preferred by individuals whose labour is not fully utilised.

Underutilised hours of labour are comprised of:

- for unemployed persons: the number of hours of work sought;
- for part-time underemployed persons: the number of additional hours preferred; and
- for full-time underemployed persons (i.e. full-time employed persons who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons): the difference between the number of hours usually worked and actually worked in the reference week.

The total potential hours in the labour force is the sum of the hours usually worked by all employed persons, plus the number of hours of underutilised labour as described above.

For more information see [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods \(/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/2023/concepts-and-sources/underutilised-labour#definitions-used-in-abs-surveys\).](#)

Data Item	Tables
Number of additional hours preferred or hours not worked by underemployed ('000 Hours)	Labour Force, Australia, Detailed Tables 23a, 23b
Volume measure of underemployment rate (%)	
Number of hours sought by unemployed ('000 Hours)	
Volume measure of unemployment rate (%)	
Number of potential hours in the labour force ('000 Hours)	
Volume measure of underutilisation rate (%)	

Year of arrival

See 'Elapsed years since arrival'

Detailed output information

The detailed output, including the data items contained within each pre-prepared spreadsheet available for download, is shown below.

Labour Force, Australia outputs



Tables

- Table 1. Labour force status by Sex, Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 4. Labour force status by Sex, New South Wales - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 5. Labour force status by Sex, Victoria - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 6. Labour force status by Sex, Queensland - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 7. Labour force status by Sex, South Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 8. Labour force status by Sex, Western Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 9. Labour force status by Sex, Tasmania - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original
- Table 10. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Trend and Original
- Table 10a. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 11. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Trend and Original
- Table 11a. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Seasonally adjusted
- Table 12. Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 12a. Labour force status by Sex, Territory - Seasonally adjusted

Table 13. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 15. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Educational attendance (full-time) and Sex

Table 16. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Educational attendance (full-time)

Table 17. Labour force status for 15-19 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 18. Labour force status for 15-64 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 19. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and by State and Territory - Trend and Seasonally adjusted

Table 19a. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and Territory - Seasonally adjusted

Table 21. Quarterly hours worked in all jobs by Market and Non-market sector - Seasonally adjusted

Table 22. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 23. Underutilised persons by State, Territory and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

Table 23a. Underutilised persons by Territory and Sex - Seasonally adjusted

Table 24. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex (expanded analytical series)

Table 25. Underutilised persons by State, Territory and Sex (expanded analytical series)

Datacubes

Datacube GM1 - Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and territory, February 1991 onwards

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed outputs



Tables

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Table 02 - Labour force status by state, territory, greater capital city, rest of state (ASGS) and sex

Table 03 - Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by age, educational attendance (full-time) and sex and by state, territory and educational attendance (full-time)

Table 04 – Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC) - Trend, Seasonally adjusted, and Original

Table 05 – Employed persons by State, Territory and Industry division of main job (ANZSIC)

Table 06 – Employed persons by Industry sub-division of main job (ANZSIC) and Sex

Table 07 – Employed persons by Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO) and Sex

Table 08 - Employed persons by Status in employment of main job and Sex

Table 09 - Employed persons by hours actually worked in all jobs and sex

Table 10 - Employed persons by hours usually worked in all jobs and sex

Table 11 – Employed persons by Industry division of main job (ANZSIC) and Hours actually worked in all jobs

Table 12 – Employed persons by Occupation major group of main job (ANZSCO) and Hours actually worked in all jobs

Table 13 – Employed persons by Status in employment of main job and Hours actually worked in all jobs

Table 14a - Unemployed persons by duration of job search and sex

Table 14b - Unemployed persons by duration of job search and sex - trend, seasonally adjusted and original

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Table 14e - Median duration of job search by relationship in household and duration of job search

Table 16 - Labour force status by labour market region (ASGS) and sex

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Datacube LM3a - Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by age, educational attendance (full-time), highest year of school completed (ASCED) and sex, July 2014 onwards

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Datacube LM5 - Labour force status by age, major country group (subcontinent) of birth (SACC), and sex, January 1991 onwards

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Data items

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